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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT The Arrival of Soviet Repatriates in Odessa

DATE DISTR. 19 June 1957

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REFERENCES 25X1

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report describing the arrival in July 1956 of repatriates from South America in Odessa

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STATE		ARMY		NAVY		AIR		FBI		AEC						

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1. [redacted] Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian, Armenian and White Russian repatriates [redacted] Aboard they were subject to the discipline of several leaders who increased the severity of the control as the ship approached Odessa. Toward the end of the voyage they were forced to lead a life apart even from the crew members of the ship with whom they had familiarized in their common language and common customs. All of the repatriates had Soviet passports and had gone aboard ship [redacted] amid manifestations of great enthusiasm. None of them were able to go ashore during the stop of the ship [redacted] 25X1

2. Toward 1300 hours on 20 July a tug came alongside the ship about 30 miles out of Odessa and sent aboard a visiting committee headed by a colonel of the Soviet frontier police. The colonel immediately began the passport check while the ship was inspected and the crew collected in the main lounge. The [redacted] government's commissar aboard the ship introduced himself to the Russian and showed his officer's card since he did not have a personal or seaman's passport. It was promised to him that he would be able to go ashore in Odessa but permission was never actually granted, neither for him, nor for the [redacted] chaplain, nor for another crew member [redacted] The ship entered Odessa and docked at the military dock head at about 1800 hours. 25X1

3. The passengers began to debark at once and were received by various personalities who gave official welcome speeches from a platform. The repatriates were then taken to the Soviet passenger ship SS PONOVET which was docked nearby. By the following morning most of the new arrivals had already changed disposition and assumed a painfully sad attitude. A few of them apprached the ship before it sailed, exchanged a few words with the crew members and went away timorously at the appearance of the police. From aboard [redacted] many watched the [redacted] ship with tears in their eyes. A woman who had arrived in Odessa in past months attempted to persuade those aboard the [redacted] ship to let her embark as a stowaway. 25X1

[redacted]

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5. The Soviet government expects to repatriate more than 40,000 persons [redacted] and thousands more from other sections of South America before the current campaign finishes. In addition to embarking the repatriates aboard the regular passenger liners, entire ships [redacted] are being chartered for direct trips from South America to Odessa. 25X1 25X1 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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